

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. An apparatus for agitating fluids in a container, comprising:
2 a motor for providing a first rotational driving force;
3 a drive cam coupled to said motor for receiving said first rotational driving
4 force and converting said first rotational driving force into a second driving force having a
5 reciprocal component;
6 a container holder for holding a fluid container, the contents of which are to be
7 agitated;
8 a drive shaft coupled to said drive cam and to said container holder for
9 receiving said second driving force and communicating it to said fluid container to agitate the
10 contents thereof.

- 1 2. The apparatus of claim 1 including a drive reducer for coupling said motor to
2 said drive cam.

- 1 3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said drive cam has an offset lobe, and said
2 drive cam is coupled to said drive shaft by said offset lobe.

- 1 4. The apparatus of claim 2 including a cam shaft, and wherein said drive cam is
2 coupled to said motor by said drive reducer and said cam shaft.

- 1 5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said container holder is rigidly coupled to
2 said drive shaft.

- 1 6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said second driving force is operative to
2 produce a vortex-like agitation of a fluid contained in said fluid container.

- 1 7. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said drive cam is operative to convert said
2 first rotational driving force into a second driving force having reciprocal and rotational
3 components.

- 1 8. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said second driving force is operative to
2 produce a vortex-like agitation of a fluid contained in said fluid container.

- 1 9. A method for agitating fluids in a container, comprising:
2 providing a first rotational driving force;

3 converting said first rotational driving force into a second driving force having
4 a reciprocal component; and
5 applying said second driving force to a fluid container to agitate the contents
6 of said fluid container.

1 10. The method of claim 9 wherein said second driving force has reciprocal and
2 rotational components.

1 11. The method of claim 9 wherein the second driving force agitates the contents
2 of said fluid container in a vortex-like manner.

1 12. The method of claim 10 wherein the second driving force agitates the contents
2 of said fluid container in a vortex-like manner.

1 13. An apparatus for agitating fluids in a container, comprising:
2 first means for providing a first rotational driving force;
3 second means coupled to said first means for receiving said first rotational
4 driving force and converting said first rotational driving force into a second driving force
5 having a reciprocal component;
6 third means for holding a fluid container, the contents of which are to be
7 agitated; and
8 fourth means coupled to said second means and to said third means for
9 receiving said second driving force and communicating it to said fluid container to agitate the
10 contents thereof.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said second means includes a drive cam.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said drive cam has an offset lobe, and
2 wherein said fourth means is coupled to said second means by said offset lobe.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 14 including a drive reducer and a cam shaft, and
2 wherein said drive cam is coupled to said first means by said drive reducer and said cam
3 shaft.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said third means includes a container
2 holder, said fourth means includes a drive shaft, and wherein said container holder is rigidly
3 coupled to said drive shaft.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said second driving force is operative to
2 produce a vortex-like agitation of a fluid contained in said fluid container.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said second means is operative to convert
2 said first rotational driving force into a second driving force having reciprocal and rotational
3 components.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said second driving force is operative to
2 produce a vortex-like agitation of a fluid contained in said fluid container